



## **Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture**

Date: Thursday, Mar 3, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Zoom

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/87024178035>

Passcode: 140421

[Supplemental Written Program Updates](#)

### **Agenda**

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|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | For Approval: <a href="#">February minutes</a> | 7:00p-7:05p |
| 2. | Updates: Planning & Community Development      | 7:05p-7:15p |
| 3. | Updates: Community Engagement                  | 7:15-7:30p  |
| 4. | Updates: Co-Chairs                             | 7:30-7:45p  |
| 5. | Discussion: ArtsArlington.org Website          | 7:45-8:10p  |
| 6. | New Business                                   | 8:10-8:30p  |

**Next meeting will be Thursday, April 7 from 7:00-8:30p**



## **Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture**

Date: February 3, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30PM

Location: Zoom

**Attending:** Steve Poltorzycki, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Nick Castellano, Stewart Ikeda, Beth Locke, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Andrea Nicolay, Tom Davison, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Christine Noah, Steve Poltozycki

**Absent:** Tom Formicola

**Guests:** Cecily Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

**BREAKING NEWS: ALI CARTER GAVE BIRTH TO LITTLE GEORGE THIS MORNING!!!**

### **1) ROLL CALL AND RULES OF REMOTE MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING COVID-19**

### **2) APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES**

- Approved unanimously as amended by all who attended the last meeting.

### **3) PUBLIC ART UPDATES**

- Chanel Thervil has done some photo shoots of people participating in her residency project. She'll be on break until the end of the month.
- Youth banners were shared in a community engagement event.
- Arlington Community Ed is interested in collaborating on the Chanel project for their Spring Catalog, promoting Artist Talk. They don't usually offer free programs though, so they may be just offering to put the video workshop on their site for free.

### **4) CULTURAL DISTRICT UPDATE**

- Redesignation year for the Arlington Cultural District.
- Looking back at Foundation Documents and reassessing the management. When the Managing Partnership applied for the district designation, the MCC wanted to see an entity to represent lots of groups with town representation and a way to receive money, and to be able to welcome new managing partners. The MP agreement we created predated the ACAC. If ACAC had been around, ACAC would have been the natural applicant. The agreement needs to be between ACAC and the Town. It is part of ACAC's budget. Members at large will be organizations and businesses that exist within the district or have events within the district. That allows ACAC to treat Members at Large as potential partners for all activities happening in the District. ACD should be the ground level for any business or entities that want to be part of ACAC activities.
- There is a Select Board resolution for redesignation. We need to engage the Managing Partners in addition to the Core Managing Partners.
- New language is being drafted around the Managing partnership to formalize it as a committee under ACAC (as it has already been operating).
- The audio tour has launched and that presents a way of engaging the Managing Partners again.

- We need to try out the beta version of the tour and give feedback before the launch.

#### 4) WEBSITE

- Postponed until we can go through updates with Terry. Terry and her wife has been doing an audit and have recommendations to present regarding a New host, better CMS.
- We need to review the sections of the site that pertain to our tasks, then collect items for your wish list, and we will put it together and budget.

#### 5) JAN 31st VOLUNTEER MEETING DEBRIEF

- Monday's meeting was attended by over 40 people, over 60 expressed interest. Suggestion to create a short video from the slides presented to live on our website. Lots of enthusiasm. People in town are great assets when you give them an opportunity. There is a google spreadsheet that captured demographics.
- Laurie will send an email thanking everyone and giving people a survey about the opportunities. The poll is would you like to learn more about....?
- Cristin and Laurie will also send out the video
- We will have a google signup list for people who want to help out for events
- Some people even volunteered to be volunteer coordinators
- People who are new, ages 20 -70, parents, enormous variety of favorite activities, most frequent comment, "Yay, things happening in the Heights," Or "I was walking down the street and it appeared." People commented about things for all time frames.
- How they heard - town newsletter, PTO, instagram, every different communication channel we used.
- It was key that we started promoting early through our newsletter in mid december, it ran in the advocate in early January, plus tools to send out promotion and people all doing their part. It was finally picked up by PTO's later in the month so with this spread people were hearing about it 3 or 4 times, which made the reach and response very powerful.
- Aeronaut does not have the capacity to do a beer garden this summer in the Center this summer but are hopeful for 2023.
- The guy who did the September beer garden at Jason Russell house is looking for permanent space in Arlington but is also planning to return to the Jason Russell House lawn this September.
- Ali said there are no other projects the Town is doing with the State that could be put toward the Arts. The State has put a lot of money into Tourism and has suggested the Cultural Facilities Fund.
- Are there town events that could use funds toward an art component?
- The Shared Spaces program is the only possibility that could cover public art. They covered the parklet work. Ali wants businesses to take those on going forward. There are placemaking projects that get \$50,000 or less, such as a public art project with a traffic calming project or transportation related. They offer this grant three or four times a year.  
<https://www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program>
- Is there money from activating park use that could be put toward the arts? Ali says that is going to be a long play. That would take a warrant article, or showing up to a park and rec meeting. The best approach would be to come up with a program in collaboration with the park and rec commission.
- Are there any regulations that might be suspended that could limit busking? Ali says there are no limitations for outdoor gatherings.
- There have been over 100 applications for the ARPA funding. That will be spent in no time. Artists and art non-profits have all applied.
- What is the prognosis on COVID restrictions? Ali has not been involved in those conversations this time around. Boston announced their vaccine mandates for restaurants and gyms. Some businesses in Arlington already have those mandates and are interested. The other kinds of restrictions generally come from the State.

#### 5) NEW BUSINESS

- Please like Lelands new Regent Theater social media accounts.

<https://twitter.com/RegentTheatreMA>

<https://www.instagram.com/regenttheatrearlington>

<https://www.facebook.com/regenttheatrearlington/>

- Artist Market at Roasted Granola poll was a huge success. The poll came back and there were very few complaints. Everyone sold something. Every painter sold a painting. One person made \$800 in 5 hours. The Roasted Granola and the participants would love to see this happen again.
- The Plein Air painting idea is being revived.

Meeting adjourned 8:51 pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Next meeting: March 3, 7pm



# Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Updates

## March 2022

For the ACAC meeting held online this month, we again anticipate focusing on a shortlist of items in need of voting, or priority discussion of future actions. In keeping with Open Meetings, these notes, [March agenda](#), and “Executive Order on Remote Participation” will be published publicly at least 48-hours before the meeting. We will circulate a Registration Process for the Meeting.

Please feel free to contact the chairs with any clarification or correction, to add any new business, and ESPECIALLY NOTE if any committee item entails a significant budget request, procedural change, or other action that requires a vote.

We acknowledge that the town of Arlington is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe, the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth have taken their names. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusetts Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historic Massachusetts territories today.

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### PRELIMINARY TO MEETING

Review this document and submit comments, corrections, new business to the [co-chairs](#).

Review [last month's Meeting's minutes](#) and be prepared to vote on modification or approval.

All Commissioners review and understand Town's "[Remote Participation Meeting Checklist](#)" and guidelines for Zoom meetings, collected in a Google Drive folder, [ACAC Remote Open Meetings Notes and Guidelines](#).

### RESOURCES

[ACAC Bylaws](#) | [ACAC on Town Website](#) | [ACAC Operations Plan](#) | [Strategic Plan](#) | [ACAC 2021 Annual Report](#) | August 2021 Retreat [Whiteboard](#)

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# COMMITTEE, PROJECT, AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

**FY22 Commission Meetings Schedule:** First Thursdays at 7PM unless quorum can't be attained. The next meeting is scheduled for **APRIL 7 at 7PM**.

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**Full Commission:** The co-chairs and treasurer anticipate being called to present to the Finance Committee very soon to discuss our \$35,000 FY23 budget request and have been updating ACAC's presentation in anticipation of being called on by the Finance Committee. The co-chairs have [drafted an announcement](#) for a Commissioner-level vacancy as well as specific subcommittee and working group roles in need of support.

**Arlington Cultural District:** ACAC Commissioners are invited to test and share feedback on the new **ACD Self-Guided Audio Tour**, now available as a beta version on [Soundcloud](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and via an [interactive Google Map](#). Anyone interested in participating in the planning is invited to join.

**Grants Committee:** The GC is pleased to announce [this year's grants recipients here](#). ACAC co-chairs plan to join the Grants Committee March monthly meeting to discuss collaborative opportunities with the rest of the Commission. Thanks to all the dedicated Grants Committee members! The GC seeks new Committee Members for three-year terms, meeting the second Monday of every month. Contact [accchair@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:accchair@town.arlington.ma.us) for information.

**Community Engagement:** CE held its monthly meeting **Monday, February 28, 2022** at 7:30pm to debrief the volunteer event, discuss utility box painting, a plein air event, Arlington Heights event, and other future projects. ACAC collaborated with the Arlington Human Rights Commission on a [light pole banners project to celebrate Black History Month](#) and participated in a Zoom artist talk with this year's new artist, **Jasmine Milton**, moderated by AHRC's **Crystal Haynes**. **Cecily Miller**, **Tom Starr** and AHS student interns gave a presentation to DPCD Director **Jenny Raitt** on proposed town-wide locations for the "future historical markers" from the **Climate Futures** project. On February 27, ACAC joined **Jillian Harvey**, DEI Director, and Robbins Library in presenting a Zoom panel exploring personal storytelling as part of **Elevating Arlington's Voices of Color**; featured panelists were writer **Lynette Benton** and poet **Charles Coe**.

**DEIA Task Force:** Artist **Maria Lobo** reached out to volunteer for the Task Force after the CE Volunteer Information Zoom. **Stewart Ikeda** joined discussions of the **School Committee** and the **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission** to learn about opportunities to collaborate and present the interests of LGBTQIA residents and students in Arlington.

**Fundraising:** The Fundraising Committee and CE determined to apply for the **MCC Festivals Grant** (\$1,500) for an Arlington Heights Neighborhood festival, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce. The Committee is planning for the Spring appeal for both businesses

and individuals. Committee members will also be reaching out to businesses who supported last year's Spruce Up campaign to coordinate in-person or virtual meetings to learn more about why they contributed to ACAC and how we could improve the sponsorship relationship. Finally, the Committee is excited to welcome new member **Ed Blundell**, who attended the January volunteer info session.

**ArtLinks:** **Darisse (Dari) Paquette** was February's featured artist. ArtLinks' collaborative member show, *Nature in the Balance*, curated by **Kristina Goransson**, remains on view at **Arlington Center for the Arts** by appointment only through March 24. ArtLinks March 2 event was "The Art of Gardening: Color My Garden".

**Poet Laureate:** Congratulations to Poet Laureate **Steven Ratiner** whose Red Letter Poems series released its 99th poem on February 25!

**VisitArlington:** **Beth Locke** continues to invite distribution and editorial ideas, events to post on the blog, and other assistance for *Visit Arlington Magazine & Community Guide 2021/2022* and [visitarlington.org](http://visitarlington.org). Locke is seeking support to create a new edition for next year.

**Marketing:** Last month, the ArtsArlington newsletter resumed its twice monthly schedule. The mid-February newsletter included a campaign inviting readers to share feedback about a favorite ACAC project, eliciting a number of positive testimonials. More cultural institutions in town appear to be aware of and routinely share information for inclusion in the ArtsArlington newsletter. Marketing Coordinator **Terese Holt** has worked with website host GoDaddy to resolve several issues with website operations and loading times. ACAC commissioners and other stakeholders were invited to review and provide feedback on the ArtsArlington.org website in February for sharing at the March meeting.